

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-7 were previously pending in the application. Claim 5 is canceled and new claim 8 is added. Therefore claims 1-4 and 6-8 are presented for consideration.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 7. In reliance thereon, claim 6 is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 is amended to address the claim objection noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-5 are rejected as anticipated by JOHNSON et al. Re. 36,164.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the reference does not disclose or suggest that the ribs are integrally formed with the plastic frame such that a circle defining a maximum diameter of the through hole passes through the ribs as recited in claim 1.

By way of example, Figure 5A of the present application shows a through hole 25. As disclosed on page 9, lines 21-23 of the present application, the ribs 6b are arranged along a circumference of the through hole 25 at the same distance.

Accordingly, a circle defining a maximum diameter of the through hole passes through the ribs.

In contrast, JOHNSON et al. teach ribs 16 that are part of a convoluted resilient retainer 10 (indicated in the Official Action as a plastic frame). As disclosed on column 3, lines 44-63 of JOHNSON et al., the ribs 16 and ear portions 14 are alternately and symmetrically disposed about annular body 12 and have sufficient circumferential spacing to permit lateral movement of the retained fastener shank within the bore 34.

Accordingly, in order for the retainer 10 to function, the retainer must be seated in first structural member 32 and could not be integral therewith and the ribs 16 must be a hollow arcuate section that can be depressed into the section defining the maximum diameter of the through hole to permit lateral movement. Therefore, a circle defining a maximum diameter of the through hole that passes through the ribs as recited in claim 1 would render the device of JOHNSON et al. inoperable and thus JOHNSON et al. could not disclose or suggest this feature.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the recited prior art.

Claim 8 recites that the ribs number three and a section of the inner surface of the through hole having a maximum diameter directly faces the ribs. This embodiment is shown in Figure 4A of the present application, for example. JOHNSON et al. do not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, it is believed that new claim 8 avoids the rejection under §102 is allowable over the art of record.

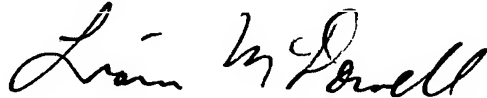
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231

745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

LM/fb